

July 2024

New Department of Education rules on school attendance

Dear Families,

I am writing to inform you in advance of the new rules relating to school attendance, which take effect from 19th August 2024. Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider referring parents/carers for a Penalty Notice for an unauthorised term time leave of absence, or when there has been irregular attendance over a 10-week period. This is when a child has missed 10 or more school sessions (5 days) with unauthorised absence (*This applies even if your child has not been on holiday*).

We will be arranging a coffee morning event to explain the changes in greater detail for you.

The Department of Education has significantly toughened the laws and increased the fines. The new costs of these Penalty Notices are outlined below. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012. ***Please note fines are issued directly by the Local Authority and are not made payable to the school.***

Paid within 21 days		
Number of children	Total per parent (Adults responsible for the child)	Total for both parents (Adults responsible for the child)
1 child	£80	£160
2 children	£160	£320
3 children	£240	£480
Paid within 28 days		
1 child	£160	£320
2 children	£320	£640
3 children	£480	£1440

From Autumn Term 2024, only 2 Penalty Notices can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate of £160 per child.

It is also important to note that a third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent for the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. If there is a third occurrence of poor attendance or term time holiday that meets the legal threshold, alternative action will be taken. This is likely to involve legal prosecution or a parenting order.

At Tameside Primary Academy, we are passionate about our children’s attendance and know that education is the most effective way to ensure children reach their full potential and future opportunities. We expect all children to attend school regularly and are here to support where families have difficulties with school attendance. Exceptional Leave requests will not be authorised unless without additional informational which clearly demonstrates that **exceptional circumstances are met**.

For children who face complex barriers to attendance, Tameside Primary Academy will have sensitive conversations with children and families and work with them to put support in place for their individual needs, this may be with the additional support of the Early Help Process.



The full guidance from the Department for Education can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024.pdf

We continue to appreciate the amazing support you give to our school in ensuring your child is given the very best start in life. I have included the term dates for next academic year and for the following year to help you plan holidays around school term dates. These can also be obtained from the Sandwell Council website. We will also be reviewing our School Attendance Policy for the beginning of the next academic year to reflect the change in statutory guidance from the Department for Education. This will be shared with you in due course.

Please note Inset days are included below, and are on our website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hill
Principal

Autumn term 2024

Inset day: Monday 2 September 2024

Terms starts: Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Inset day: Monday 23rd September 2024

School open to all pupils: Tuesday 24th September 2024

Half-term holiday: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024

Inset day: Friday 8th November 2024

School open to all pupils: Monday 11th November 2024

Term ends: Friday 20 December 2024

Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

Spring term 2025

Inset day: Monday 6 January 2025

Term starts: Tuesday 7th January 2025

Half-term holiday: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025

Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025

Easter Holiday: Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

Summer term 2025

Term starts: Monday 28 April 2025 (Bank Holiday Monday 5 May)

Half-term holiday: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025

Term ends: Friday 18th July 2025

Inset day: Monday 21st July 2025

Summer holiday starts: Tuesday 22 July 2025